

Except in a few places, it has a good depth, and has a steady flow of about four miles an hour. Several large and small creeks flow into the river between Montgomery and Selma. All in all the scenery is exceedingly attractive.

The Federal Government in its improvement of the river has constructed a number of jetties back of which numerous mud flats are formed. These flats at this and other migrating seasons, afford feeding grounds for all long billed migrants, as well as the residents. Among the latter are the Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, and one or two others which are to be found practically all the year and which mix very freely with the visitors.

The notes below are contributed in the hope that they may add to the meagre available information concerning these birds in the interior.

**Pisobia minutilla.** LEAST SANDPIPER.—Several small flocks and numbers of singles and pairs of the Least Sandpiper, were seen, and two specimens, a male and a female, were taken. These two, with one of the Semipalmated and one of the Solitary, below, were all secured from the same flock. The Leasts were beginning to take on their winter plumage.

**Ereunetes pusillus.** SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—Two single specimens of the *E. pusillus* were collected, one of which was from the flock of *P. minutilla* above referred to. An interesting incident happened in connection with the effort to get another one. Shooting from the moving boat in midstream at a single, on the water's edge, his wing only was injured. The bird fell into the water, but managed to climb up the river bank, five or six feet, by the time the boat could be stopped and run into shore. It again fell into the water, and on making an effort to take it in my hand, it rose and flew along the surface about 400 feet directly across the river, alighting twenty yards up stream on a rocky ledge, covered with high grass. We noted the point, and on getting there could have easily killed it, but preferring to make a capture, landed for that purpose. Even though we stepped near enough to frighten the bird from under our feet more than once, it was effectually concealed by the surroundings, and finally lost.

**Helodromas s. solitarius.** SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Only one specimen of the Solitary, a female, was noted. This bird was killed, while feeding, with five or six of *P. minutilla* and about the same number of Killdeer.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Dept. of Archives, Montgomery, Ala.*

**The Black Rail at St. Marks, Florida.**—While our section of the country falls within the known winter habitat of this diminutive and most secretive member of the Rallidae it was not until the fall of 1915 that I had positive knowledge of the occurrence of *Creciscus jamaicensis*. I had traversed the extensive tidal marshes at all seasons of the year and had seen here every other member of the family known to inhabit our part of the Gulf coast.

One or two fleeting glimpses of a scurrying black form amongst the thick growth of grass and reeds in the vicinity of a pond had at times suggested

this species but nothing more definite had been noted. On September 4, 1915, during a tide four or five feet above usual high water — the off-shoot of a gulf hurricane — an adult Black Rail was picked up at the edge of the incoming waters on the railroad embankment within the limits of our village and was water-soaked and almost lifeless. A small offer for other specimens soon brought another bird and reports of at least two or three others seen, all on the date above given.

On October 6, 1916 two of these birds were observed near the lighthouse, at low tide, flying from or near the water's edge and among some coarse and rather sparsely growing water plants inshore to the cover of the tidal marsh.

On September 11, 1919, we again had high water — visible evidence of the Key West hurricane — about four feet above ordinary high tide. In a skiff-boat, over the river marsh, with a boy to row, six Black Rails were collected by hand in less than an hour and probably three or four others were seen. No wind or rain accompanied this high tide but seemingly the birds were exhausted by their efforts to cling to the bushes which were their only refuge above the water. Usually at the first feeble flight or effort to fly, the bird fell into the water and on closer approach of the boat would dive and make short-lived efforts to escape.

Of these six birds three were adult (?) females or were at least decidedly older than the other three. Of the three younger birds two were males and one a female.

Juv. No. 1 had the primaries partly developed but not fully from the sheaths. A well marked shading of brown showed on the nape and traces of down clung to the tips of some of the primaries. The wings, back, breast and flanks were decidedly darker than in the older birds.

The other two young birds were seemingly of equal age and considerably younger than juv. No. 1. Their primaries were just showing the tips and there was a slight trace of the brown on the hind neck. The white spots of back, wings and flank while not so marked as in the adult are clearly indicated. There is a slight, light-colored spot not clearly defined on the bills of the two younger birds about one-third of the distance from the base, but present in both specimens.

So far as can be ascertained this is the first record of *C. jamaicensis* nesting in the State where the young birds have been secured.<sup>1</sup>

The undeveloped condition of the two younger specimens — Nos. 2 and 3 — precludes a possibility of their having been reared elsewhere than on the marsh on which they were captured. This tidal marsh close by our village and not infrequently overflowed, is about seven miles up the river from the Gulf and but two miles above usual salt water. It is not unusual in times of strong east or south-east winds to have salt water a mile or more above where these birds were found.

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<sup>1</sup> Baynard, — 'Breeding Birds of Alachua County, Fla.' (Auk, XXX, p. 243, 1913), records seeing an adult with three young but apparently collected no specimens.

The measurements of the specimens in inches were as follows:

	Length	Wing	Tarsus	Bill
Adult (?) ♀	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{9}{16}$
“ (?) ♀	$6\frac{1}{8}$	3	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{9}{16}$
“ (?) ♀	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{9}{16}$
Juv. No. I ♂	$5\frac{5}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$
Juv. No. II ♂	$5\frac{1}{4}$	—	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Juv. No. III ♀	5	—	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{16}$

JOHN WILLIAMS, *St. Marks, Florida.*

**Purple Gallinule in North Carolina.**—A young Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinicus*) was shot by me at Currituck Sound, N. C., on November 12, 1919, sex undetermined. The record seems worthy of publication since there are only two previous records for the State.

The specimen was identified by Newbold T. Lawrence Esq. and Mr. Thomas Rowland and confirmed by my examination of skins in the collection of Dr. J. Dwight at the American Museum of Natural History.—H. F. STONE, *29 East 82rd. St., New York, N. Y.*

**Breeding of the Mourning Dove in Maine.**—On June 8, 1919, while in York County, Maine, not more than a mile from the New Hampshire border at East Rochester, four doves were seen and we were shown a nest in a small white pine grove, from which the young were said to have already flown, though two of our birds flew from the grove as we approached. The Mourning Dove is considered a very rare breeder in southwestern Maine, and as there seem to be very few definite records, our observation seems worthy of note.

Incidentally these birds had been reported as Passenger Pigeons by the local observers, one of whom was said to be an old pigeon-hunter. No reports we have ever seen were so plausible or circumstantial, nor could we have encountered greater certainty in our correspondents. The old pigeon-hunter, in fact, did not credit our identification of these birds as doves. In view of the numerous reports of Wild Pigeons, most of which are never followed up, we think that our experience is of interest.—W. DEW. MILLER AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**The Status of Harlan's Hawk in Colorado.**—Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo b. harlani*) was first officially recorded for Colorado by Mr. Robert Ridgway in 1885 (Auk, II, 1885, p. 165) although he had previously referred to the specimen in 1882 on page 252 of Vol. I, of the same journal, when he called attention to the possible identity of *Buteo cooperi* and *B. b. harlani*. This specimen he recorded as taken by C. E. H. Aiken near Colorado Springs, Colorado, without exact date.